

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. In a system for processing and managing requests for collocation space comprising a workstation, a computer network, a web server, an application server, and a database, a method for assisting a user in completing an application for collocation space, comprising:

(A) obtaining from the user information regarding a location and physical characteristics of the collocation space and equipment to be installed therein;

(B) setting data field values of the application based on the information provided by the user;

(C) allowing a proposed layout of the equipment for the collocation space or other documents to be associated with and attached to the application;

(D) prompting submission of the application;

(E) if the user has submitted invalid or incomplete information, presenting the user with an error message and advising the user of a source of any error; and

(F) providing confirmation of successful submission of the application.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising presenting additional data fields of the application for completion by the user based on the information provided by the user.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising performing a validation check of the application to determine whether the information provided by the user is accurate and complete.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising prompting the user for re-submission of the application after the user has attempted to correct any error.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising notifying an entity responsible for providing the collocation space that the application was submitted successfully.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising allowing the user to copy contents of a previously submitted application for entry into the application.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising allowing the user to edit a copy of a previously submitted application to create a revised application and to submit the revised application to supersede the previously submitted application.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein step B comprises accessing the database to obtain data corresponding to the information and entering the data in the data fields.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein step B comprises performing calculations based on the information and entering results in the data fields.

10. In a system for processing and managing requests for collocation space comprising a workstation, a computer network, a web server, an application server, and a database, a method for managing preparation of a response to an application for collocation space by a user, comprising:

(A) establishing a workbook comprising a plurality of sections, wherein a plurality of responsible entities provide information necessary to complete the plurality of sections;

(B) setting data field values of the plurality of sections based on information provided by the user or the plurality of responsible entities;

(C) generating a critical dates section to inform the user and the plurality of responsible entities of due dates and event dates;

(D) allowing documents to be associated with and attached to the workbook;

(E) when a first section of the workbook is completed by a first responsible entity, notifying a second responsible entity; and

(F) sending a completed response to the user.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising notifying a third responsible entity when a second section of the workbook is completed by the second responsible entity.

12. The method of claim 10, further comprising customizing the plurality of sections based on information previously provided by the user or the plurality of responsible entities.

13. The method of claim 10, further comprising prompting the user for submission of a firm order.

14. The method of claim 10, further comprising copying contents from a workbook associated with a superseded version of the application for entry into the workbook.

15. The method of claim 10, wherein step B comprises accessing the database to obtain data corresponding to the information and entering the data in the data fields.

16. The method of claim 10, wherein step B comprises performing calculations based on the information and entering results in the data fields.

17. In a system comprising a workstation, a computer network, a web server, an application server, and a database, a method for processing and responding to requests for collocation space, comprising:

(A) obtaining from a user information regarding a location and physical characteristics of a collocation space and equipment to be installed therein;

(B) setting data field values of an application for collocation space based on the information provided by the user;

(C) prompting submission of the application;

(D) based on data in the application, generating a workbook comprising a plurality of sections, wherein a plurality of responsible entities provide information necessary to complete the plurality of sections;

(E) setting data field values of the plurality of sections based on data in the application;

(F) when a first section of the workbook is completed by a first responsible entity, notifying a second responsible entity; and

(G) sending a response to the application to the user.

18. The method of claim 17, further comprising if the user has submitted inaccurate or incomplete information, presenting the user with an error message and advising the user of a source of any error.

19. The method of claim 17, further comprising generating a critical dates section to inform the user and the plurality of responsible entities of due dates and event dates.

20. The method of claim 17, further comprising notifying a third responsible entity when a second section of the workbook is completed by the second responsible entity.

21. The method of claim 17, further comprising performing a validation check of the application to determine whether the information provided by the user is accurate and complete.

22. The method of claim 17, further comprising allowing documents to be associated with and attached to the application.

23. The method of claim 17, further comprising allowing documents to be associated with and attached to the workbook.

24. The method of claim 17, wherein step B comprises accessing the database to obtain data corresponding to the information and entering the data in the data fields.

25. The method of claim 17, wherein step B comprises performing calculations based on the information and entering results in the data fields.

26. The method of claim 17, further comprising managing assignment of event dates and calculation of due dates related to the application.

27. The method of claim 26, further comprising notifying the plurality of responsible entities of the due dates and the event dates via electronic means.

28. The method of claim 27, further comprising selectively notifying an appropriate responsible entity of an event date based on the event and the location of the collocation space.

29. The method of claim 26, wherein due dates are calculated utilizing a table-based lookup in order to determine due date intervals based on characteristics of the application.

30. The method of claim 29, further comprising allowing for revision of due dates for retroactive due date interval changes.

31. The method of claim 26, wherein event dates are assigned automatically to record application status changes.

32. The method of claim 31, further comprising allowing an event date to be adjusted by one of the plurality of responsible entities to reflect an accurate event date that is earlier than an assigned event date.

33. The method of claim 32, further comprising calculating an event date interval.

34. In a system for processing and managing requests for collocation space comprising a workstation, a computer network, a web server, an application server, and a database, a method comprising:

storing within the database characteristics of a plurality of collocation spaces, a plurality of critical date rules, and identities of responsible entities for enabling installation at the plurality of collocation spaces;

providing a plurality of web-accessible applications comprising a plurality of data entry fields for entry by a user of information regarding a requested collocation spaces of the plurality of collocation spaces and requirements of equipment to be installed at the requested collocation space;

comparing entered information with the stored characteristics for the requested collocation space to determine whether the equipment to be installed is compatible with the requested collocation space;

if the equipment is compatible, generating relevant critical dates based on the plurality of critical date rules;

electronically notifying the user of the relevant critical dates;

electronically notifying one or more responsible entities of the relevant critical dates for installation at the requested collocation space;

associating information about the requested collocation space with the application and storing the associated information in the database;

electronically transmitting an acknowledgment of the application to the user;

and

if the equipment is not compatible, electronically notifying the user that an error exists in the application.